

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 ACDA-05 IO-10 AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01

SCCT-01 SY-04 A-01 OPR-01 /091 W
----- 095972

P 191405Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3196

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0235

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN GHINDA-ERITREA

1. REPRESENTATIVE OF EIGHT AMERICAN MISSIONARIES STATIONED
IN GHINDA (HALFWAY BETWEEN ASMARA AND MASSAWA) CALLED ON CONGEN
TO EXPRESS CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF HIS MISSION PERSONNEL SHOULD
US DECIDE TO SUPPLY ARMS TO EPMG FOR USE IN ERITREA. HE ALSO
EXPRESSED DISMAY OVER APPARENT VOA INSENSITIVITY TO DELICATE AND
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION OF AMERICANS IN ERITREA (REFERRING
TO BROADCAST THAT USG CONSIDERING EPMG ARMS REQUEST) AND SAID MANY
ERITREANS INTERPRETED BROADCAST AS INDICATING THAT DECISION ALREADY
MADE IN FAVOR OF EPMG. HE STATED THAT SHOULD USG AGREE TO RESUPPLY
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EPMG HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO HIS HEADQUARTERS IN PHILADELPHIA THAT

HIS MISSION BE WITHDRAWN. COMMENT: WE CONCUR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THREAT TO AMERICANS IN ERITREA SHOULD USG SUPPLY SMALL ARMS TO EPMG.

2. SOURCE SAID ELF VERY STRONG IN GHINDA AREA AND PREVIOUSLY HELD TRAINING DRILL IN SCHOOL COMPOUND OF NEARBY VILLAGE. SINCE ARMY'S RECENT EXECUTION OF NINE ERITREANS HOWEVER, INSURGENTS MORE CIRCUMSPECT AND NO LONGER CARRY ARMS IN CITY, ALTHOUGH THEY STILL HAVE OPEN ACCESS. SOURCE STATED THAT ELF HAVE CAPABILITY TO CLOSE MASSAWA ROAD AT WILL AND COULD CUT POWER LINES TO ASMARA BUT BELIEVES THEY HAVE HELD OFF BECAUSE OF CONCERN FOR FELLOW ERITREANS IN CITY.
SHERRY

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